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ICB announces Early Literacy Firefly Award Winner Bill Cotter

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Center for the Book (ICB) Director Suzanne Walker is delighted to announce Children's Author Bill Cotter as the first inaugural 2015 Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award winner for his book "Don't Push the Button."

The Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award is an initiative of the ICB to promote early childhood literacy in Indiana. The state award is chosen by the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Committee made up of professionals in Indiana including teachers, librarians, caregivers, and project coordinators; all of whom are involved in early childhood development.

"ICB is excited to be launching this new picture book award focusing on Early Literacy. Children from infancy to five are absolutely capable of enjoying books and being discriminating judges," says ICB Director Suzanne Walker. "Just try reading a boring book to a group of 4-year-olds. 'Don't Push the Button' is the first of the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Awards; books that are chosen for their ability to encourage parents and children to talk, sing, read, write, and play together. It is our hope that caregivers will see this list of books as a quality go-to resource for having fun and learning with their young children."

Author Bill Cotter enthusiastically received the Firefly Award, stating, "reading to children at an early age not only shows them that words can connect them to new amazing worlds, but also leaves them intrinsically connected to the person that took the time out of their day to have that moment of fun with them. I can't imagine a better way to nurture a young mind than by instilling a love for words while simultaneously reminding them that they are loved by the adults in their life."

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For more information on the Indiana Center for the Book or the Firefly Award, please visit <http://www.in.gov/library/icb.htm>.